

## Analysis of Multiple Characters of Major Character in the Novel *Tell Me Your Dreams* by Sydney Sheldon, as an Alternate Material to Teaching Prose

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### Abstract

This research is purposed to analysis of multiple characters of major character in the novel *Tell Me Your Dream* by Sidney Sheldon. Like any other Sheldon's previous novel, this novel tells an interesting mysterious story with a woman as the main character. Reading literature such as novels is interesting and challenging. It requires a different approach than reading a textbook. The writer can apply the knowledge about multiple character presented in the novel that can be used to convey informations. And the last but not least the writer can give contribution to teach prose. Based on background of the topic, writer states the exact problems of this study as follows: (1) What is multiple characters generally? (2) What are multiple characters of main character found in the novel? (3) What does *Tell Me Your Dreams* contribute to Teaching Prose? Based on the problem the writer states, the objectives of this study as follows: (1) To explain the multiple characters definition. (2) To explain the multiple characters of main character found in the novel. (3) To explain what *Tell Me Your Dreams* novel contributes to Teaching Prose. This research uses data collection method with Content-analysis: A review of research in any area, for instance, involves the analysis of the contents of research articles that have been published. The technique of data analysis through some ways such as reading the novel, books and international journal, classifying the data, and analyzing the content of the novel. Based on the analysis, the writer concludes that *Tell Me Your Dreams* a novel written by Sidney Sheldon in 1998 is one of the media of teaching prose for example analyzing a novel. The contributions of analyzing novel for Teaching Proses are an alternative fun way of studying prose, increasing student interest in the preservation of literature and increasing students' listening ability reading ability, writing ability, and speaking ability.

**Keywords:** *Novel, Main character, Prose, Teaching Prose*

## INTRODUCTION

A literary work exists because of society. In other words, the existence of literary work is influenced by the condition and phenomenon in society either in politic, social, religion, economy, and cultural. As Wellek and Warren (1977: 94) stated, literature reserve about life, and life, in most

part, is part of the real society. Therefore, literary work is the reflection of the real life. It can describe the events in our life, and also contains the cultural and social background which indicates that literature and society is closely related because

literature expresses the situations and problems existing in society.

Literary works has close relationship with human life. One of literary works is novel. Novel is one of literature forms. (Ncc.edu Editor :2014) It is a fictional piece of prose usually written in a narrative style. Novels tell stories, which are typically defined as a series of events described in a sequence. It has plot, character, point of view, theme and setting. Plot is something that happens in the story. Character is the man who involved in the story. The way the writer told the story called point of view. Theme is the main point of the story and setting is when or where the story takes place. These elements must be completed to make a good novel work. The novel, however, arises from the desire to depict and interpret human character. The reader of a novel is both entertained and aided in a deeper perception of life's problems.

From explanations above, it can be concluded that there is a clear relation between literature and society. And novel as one kind of literary works also as the mirror of one society in which the novel been created. By reading, interpreting and analyzing a novel, the readers or researchers not only get the understanding about the condition and problems in one society based on the novel, but also the better views to face many problems in life.

Literature for the readers can give a pleasure and knowledge. As Roberts and Jacobs (1995: 1) state that literature refers to compositions that tell stories, dramatize situations, express emotions, and analyze and advocate ideas. Roberts and Jacobs (1995: 2) also state that literature may be classified into four categories of genres 1) prose fiction, 2) poetry, 3) drama 4) nonfiction prose.

Novel is one of various literary works as a part of prose fiction. As a prose fiction, novel offers various matters about human and humanity. Novel is created by the author who imitated the real world which is combined with his/her imagination. By reading a novel, people can get pleasure and also much understanding about human characters. As a part of literature, a novel gives us knowledge which is rich in psychological aspects as it can be seen through characters.

Character is one of important element in fiction, especially novel. It has an important role to build up a story. Every character has its own characteristics that create a story and each of it is portrayed in different physical and psychological. Based on the psychological side, literature can be studied and analyzed by using the theory of psychology.

Psychology studies such a wide variety of human behaviors, experiences, interactions and it also suggests ways to

improve the quality of human life and literature is covering human activities.

*Tell Me Your Dreams* is a novel written by Sidney Sheldon in 1998. Like any other Sheldon's previous novel, this novel tells an interesting mysterious story with a woman as the main character. The main character of the novel is Ashley who suffers from multiple personality because of the childhood trauma. Multiple personality is a condition in which a person displays

multiple distinct identities or personalities (known as alter egos or alters), each with its own pattern of perceiving and interacting with the environment. Then, Ashley is suspected as a murder because of her multiple personality. In this thesis, the writer will also analyze Ashley's other individual identities namely Alette Peters and Toni Prescott and how they are reflected in the novel.

## REVIEW OF RELATED THEORIES

### Description Multiple Personality

In common language, multiple personalities **are** condition in which an individual's personality split that emerges another personality. Those personalities are usually an expression of the actual personality that emerges because they are not capable of bring things that they want into reality.

In simple terms it can be said that there is one person who has a personality more than one or two persons at a time. Sometimes the patient does not know that he has multiple personalities, that there are two persons in one body is also not know each other and worse sometimes these two conflicting personal nature.

### Synopsis of *Tell Me Your Dreams*

Sidney Sheldon's *Tell Me Your Dreams* introduces three very different

women at the onset of the novel. Introduced first is gorgeous, workaholic and smart young girl named Ashley Patterson, who works at a leading firm at the silicon valley, Toni Prescott, who loves to sing, party and enjoy, and Alette Peters - who loves artwork and has inborn talent of painting.

### Analyzing Fictional Character

A fictional character is somebody in an imaginative literary work created by an author. Character analysis also requires the ability to understand the complex relationship between fiction and real life – a skill which requires a fairly mature reading experience. Fortunately, most people have been exposed to fictional narratives from an early age and will already be experienced readers by the time they are asked to make such analyses.

### Elements of a Novel

Novel is one of literature forms (Ncc.edu Editor :2014). It is a fictional piece

of prose usually written in a narrative style. Novels tell stories, which are typically defined as a series of events described in a sequence. Meanwhile, Kenney (1983:180) defined novel is a book-length story in prose, whose author tries to create the sense that, whole we read, we can experience an actual life.

### **Elements of Teaching Prose**

#### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This study uses a qualitative research. The writer deals with the novel *Tell Me Your Dreams* with the support of many other books and resources related to the topic. The books and other resources in part of this study are taken from library and from the internet as well.

Qualitative approach to research is concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions and behavior. Research in such a situation is a function of researcher's insights and impressions. Such an approach to research generates results either in non-quantitative analysis. Generally, the technique of focus group interviews, projective techniques and dept interviews are used.

This research is qualitative research that looks insightfully into analyst of multiple characters of major character in the novel "*Tell Me Your Dream*". Some data is taken from references related characters such as, internet, journals international, related prose and drama books, and some

A prose lesson is not for memorization of questions and answers but for learning a language. The prose lesson contains structure, vocabulary, grammar, views and ideas for comprehension. The students read prose with comprehension and write sentences about the lesson using the correct structures and content words.

other similar novels with the same topic about characters.

The writer uses data collection method with Content-analysis: Content-analysis consists of analyzing the contents of documentary materials such as books, magazines, newspaper and the contents of all other verbal materials which can be either spoken or printed.

The technique of data analysis through some ways:

#### **1. Reading the novel**

The writer reads the novel *Tell Me Your Dreams* novel to obtain data. Understanding and comprehending the novel are needed in this step.

#### **2. Reading books and international journal**

The writer finds information from books, journal related to the thesis.

#### **3. Classifying the data**

The writer classifies the primary data and secondary data based on the novel.

#### **4. Analyzing the content of the novel**

The writer analyzes the content of the novel are multiple characters of major

character and great value material or

great character building in it.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 1. Theme Novel of *Tell Me Your Dreams*

Sidney Sheldon's *Tell Me Your Dreams* introduces three very different women at the onset of the novel. Introduced first is Ashley Peterson, a beautiful young woman who works for a computer company in Silicon Valley. Ashley is single and convinced she is being stalked. Readers next meet Ashley's co-workers, Toni and Alette. Toni Prescott, a British woman in her early twenties is rather bold and striking. Rounding out the trio is Alette Peters, a quiet, dreamy romantic who moved to California from Rome. In the early stages of the novel, quite a few murders are committed and police in Chicago, San Francisco, and Quebec are desperate to solve the gruesome crimes that have taken place in each of their cities. Conclusive evidence points to one suspect and one suspect alone.

As the story develops, the reader learns why Ashley feels so alone in the world. She is the only child of a world-famous heart surgeon, who is often critical and overbearing. Although Ashley loves her father, she does not necessarily love his company and tries to avoid him. Toni is a provocateur with a penchant for song who suffered a strained relationship with her mother. Alette is a gifted artist who lacks

self-confidence. As the novel draws to a conclusion, Ashley, Toni, and Alette are proven to be one in the same.

Psychological disorder is the main theme of this novel. In this novel, we are told about the complex relationship between the suspect and his lawyer. As the story unfolds, the reader can see the flow of thought processes suspect that strongly influenced his psychological condition. The novel is told from the 3rd person's point of view.

The theme of this book also includes mysteries, puzzles and riddles which are very intriguing. For example, the readers can see in many scenes of life experiences Ashley, after her struggling with a trial in the court. She must fight to cure her very rare own disease. Kind of scary disease, but actually in fact, if it is worked with good help by some good doctors, it will be curable. Eventually, because of the efforts from the doctor to remedy her mental illness, it was finally found the root of the whole trigger events for such those inhuman killings.

At the end of the novel, the author notes that it is no explanation and brief facts plus statistics on psychological disorder are told. That kind of psychological disorder of this kind is difficult to be used as a defense for the accused crime, because most courts

guns believed that a person could suffer from the disorder that makes his actions guns could be accounted for.

## **2. Character and Characterization**

The first is Ashley Patterson, an introverted workaholic, the second is her co-workers, Toni Prescott, an outgoing singer and dancer. Toni is a British woman and very bold, harsh and full of. The third is shy artist Alette Peters. She is very calm, dreamy, and romantic. She is from Rome.

### **a. Ashley Patterson**

Ashley Patterson is twenty eight years old. She is neatly dressed, with patrician features, a slim figure and intelligent, has brown eyes. She is elegant and very attractive. Her dark hair falls softly to her shoulders. She had grown up in Bedford, Pennsylvania. Her father had been head of one of the top one hundred hospitals in the country. But in the recent of three years, she has been living in an apartment in Cupertino, California. She works at Global Computer Graphics Corporation, a successful, fast-growing young company with two hundred employees.

She is an expert in advertising and graphic design, creating layouts with text and images. Ashley suffers a mental illness namely dissociative identity disorder or also known as multiple personalities, a condition where there are several completely different personalities in one body, which make her divided into three identities. She is the host

or original personality. It starts because of a childhood trauma, where she shut out the trauma by creating another identity. She was raped by her own father when she was six years old. It happened when she and her father were in London. As they got home, she told her mother about what had happened to her, and her mother called her as a liar. Since that time her mother hated her.

Ashley losses her memory for several times and she does not realize on what has happened while her body was taken over by her other identity. She feels that someone is following her and wants to kill her. In one night she called a policeman to stay at her apartment because she is too afraid being in a terror.

Ashley is accused as a murderer that she feels she never done. She is told that she has done five murders. She tries hard telling everyone that she is not the murderer but no one believes her because the police have the identical proof or the evidence points to the same woman being involved in all cases. Then, she is identified as the murderer and arrested.

One of the murdered victims is Jim Cleary who was in love with Ashley and she also loves him. Her father prohibits her to have a relationship with Jim Cleary. Lately she finds that Jim Cleary is murdered and she thinks that her father as the murderer of Jim Cleary.

Ashley only knows that she often loses time. The experience of losing time almost happened daily. She often finds that something has changed without her knowing and she also finds that she has done something that she does not. It makes her confuse and she thinks that someone has done those things to her.

Ashley has no memory for what happened to her sometimes. She can be in a place where she never plans to go. She wears a dress which she does not use to. Those events are often happened but she cannot tell anybody because she has no answer about it.

Ashley feels afraid in knowing that there are other identities that live in her body. She is too afraid because she cannot control if her other identities do something that she does not want to. She cannot face the reality of other identities live in her body and caused some murders and she is so hopeless that makes her decides to commit suicide.

Ashley is treated in the asylum by Doctor Gilbert for the Multiple Personality. He is attracted to her and during her crisis he also feels her pain and wants to comfort her. After a long treatment, the doctor finds that Ashley its cure, but actually she is not. It is a part of Toni's plan that no one knows that she hides in Ashley. Ashley leaves the asylum for home. She still harbors her

hatred for her father and still Toni resides in her. She is on the way to kill her father.

When a gift from one of the murdered men to Toni is found among Ashley's things, she is identified as the killer and arrested. At this point, it is revealed that the three women are three selves of a woman suffering from *multiple personality disorder*. Ashley's father persuades an attorney friend to represent Ashley. The second half of the novel deals with the trial, complete with endless squabbling between opposing psychiatrists as to whether or not MPD is real. Finally when Ashley's advocate introduces Toni, the violent alter of Ashley, the court is convinced that Ashley is innocent. Ashley is committed to an insane asylum and in the course of therapy is introduced to her two "alters" and relives the horrific events that shattered her mind. She was sexually abused during her childhood, and this made her to develop a strong hatred towards men.

#### **b. Alette Peters**

Alette Peters is twenty years old. She is plain-looking, attractive or stunningly beautiful, depending on her mood or how she is feeling about herself. But she is never simply pretty. Part of her charm is that she is completely unaware of her looks. She is shy and soft-spoken, with gentleness that she is almost an anachronism. She is a vegetarian.

Alette first existence is when Ashley eight years old in Roma. She is created to stand up for Ashley. She comes in order to protect Ashley because Ashley was too afraid for her father who raped her one night.

Because Alette was born in Roma, she has a musical Italian accent. She loves everything about Rome.

Alette is really unique because her senses are tuned to the nuances of colors that everything she feels, see, smell and hear, she can describe it into colors. She likes to spend her times to visit the museum especially museum of art. She loves painting and wants desperately to be an artist, although she knows that her mother really hates her and never supports for what she does.

Alette is manic depressive. She suffers from anomie, a feeling of alienation from others. Her mood swings always catch her unaware, and in an instant, she goes from a blissful euphoria to a desperate misery. She has no control over her emotion. Toni is the only one with whom Alette would discuss her problems. Toni always has a solution for everything, and it is usually to go and have some fun.

Alette's has a changing mood that she cannot control sometimes. The smallest slights, whether intended or not, it will drive Alette into a rage. When the black cloud descended, Alette sometimes imagines

people on the street having heart attacks or being struck by automobiles or being mugged and killed. She would play the scenes out in her mind, and they were vividly real. A moment later, she feels shame. However, on her good days, she is a completely different person. She is genuinely kind and sympathetic and enjoys helping people. The only thing that spoiled her happiness is the knowledge that the darkness would come down on her again, and she would be lost in it.

Alette always goes to church in every Sunday morning. The church has volunteer programs to feed the homeless, to teach after-school art lessons and to tutor students and she will involve the program and lead children's Sunday school classes and help in the nursery. She volunteers for all the charitable activities and devote as much time as she could to them. She particularly enjoys giving painting classes for the young.

When Ashley is in prison, Alette actually wants to help Ashley to appear in the court as the witness but Toni prohibits her. Toni also prohibits Alette to talk to Ashley. Actually, Alette is never hate Ashley but she is just a little bit afraid of Toni. She always gives in to Toni because she considers Toni as her friend and as someone who she can trust to.

### c. **Tony Prescott**



Tony Prescott is 22 years old, impish, vivacious, and daring. She is half smoldering, half firecracker. Her face is puckishly heart shaped; her eyes are mischievous brown, her figure alluring. She was born in London and she speaks with delightful British accent. She is athletic and loves sports, particularly winter sports: skiing and bobsledding and ice-skating.

Going to college in London, she dresses conservatively during the day, but at night, she wears miniskirts and disco gear and makes the swinging rounds. She has a beautiful voice, sultry and at some of the clubs, she plays the piano and sings, and the patrons will cheer her. She is an aggressive woman; she loves to have fun and goes to the party. That is when she feels most alive. She does not like Ashley's life, for her it is so boring.

Toni hates her mother inside. She hates her for what she told her and underestimated her and doubted of her ability.

Toni and Alette generally maintain a friendship and Toni's favorite subject is Ashley Patterson. Toni dislikes Ashley and criticizes her harshly.

Toni is the dominant alter than Alette. She is tricky and she has a control to Alette, she always has a plan for them and she likes to tell Alette for what she will do. She will try anything for her willing.

Toni is a brave woman and she is really dangerous. She has killed five men by castrating them.

Toni considers that she is the murderer of five men and she is who actually responsible to the five murders. She has no regret for what she has done because she is aware that she is a part of Ashley's mind. Even Toni is emerged somehow, but she does not really exist. People know her as Ashley, and she places the blame on Ashley.

Toni accuses that she only wants to protect Ashley. She really hates her father for what he has done to Ashley. She has a feeling that when she kills a man, she feels that she is killing her father. She still has hatred to her father.

However, Ashley's alter (Toni) was enraged when she saw the news about her father and the woman he is about to marry has a three-year-old daughter. She was afraid that the girl would suffer the fate she had. Doctor Gilbert drains anger out of Toni by showing the news everyday therefore making Toni softer every passing day.

This softer side of Toni was only a front to show Doctor Gilbert she has finally accepted everything so she and Alette (another alter) could get out of the asylum to kill her father who is staying in Hamptons for Christmas. In the end, Doctor Gilbert releases her from the asylum as he believes she is cured.

In the end Ashley is shown to be traveling in a train when Toni (her violent alter) suddenly shows up and go Hamptons. During the final hypnotism, the Psychiatrist convinces Ashley to talk with her other Alters Alette Peters and Toni Prescott. Ashley asks them to go away but the alters agree if only Ashley would do things of their interest, they would go. Such as for Alette, she should paint. For Toni, she needs to sing. So when they leave, Ashley is shown as she's adapting singing for her alter. And it is Toni all over again and she is ahead to Hampston, the place that she knows before in the asylum, where her father was staying to kill him.

### 3. Contribution to Prose Teaching

Prose is one of the subjects at the university PGRI Semarang, English language education study program that can be taken in the 7th semester.

Teaching p rose is about teaching the intricacies of prose, either short stories or novels. Most important thing in teaching prose lies in the creative process and its development. Teaching prose can start with the creative process, and then start a story,

determine complex problems, a climax and an end. Commonly teaching would be ideal if supported by students who are willing and interested to study literature.

The benefits of teaching prose by analyzing novel lies in how to accept or learn apiece of literature that contains content message or moral value delivered by the creators of literary works through a literary work. Another benefit of teaching prose is the literature value itself aims to remain there and not be displaced by globalization, because the literature arts nowadays are less desirable, especially to the students, who will be minimal literary textbook. So it can be a way for increasing student interest in the preservation of literature

Teaching prose can be done with a variety of media, one of the media is literary arts, such as novels or short stories. After analyzing the characters in the novel *Tell Me Your Dreams* can be concluded that Analyzing *Tell me your dreams* can contribute to teaching prose through novel.

### CONCLUSION

In analyzing the main character of the novel, the writer uses the qualitative research. The main character of the novel is Ashley Patterson who is a beautiful, smart, nice woman but because of her childhood

trauma has made her suffers a mental illness namely dissociative identity disorder or also

known as multiple personality — a condition where there are several completely different personalities in one

body — which make her has other identities that are really different to her real personality.

*Tell Me Your Dreams* is a novel written by Sidney Sheldon in 1998. Like any other Sheldon's previous novel, this novel tells an interesting mysterious story with a woman as the main character. The main character of the novel is Ashley who suffers from multiple personality because of the childhood trauma. Multiple personality

is a condition in which a person displays multiple distinct identities or personalities (known as alter egos or alters), each with its own pattern of perceiving and interacting with the environment. Then, Ashley is suspected as a murder because of her multiple personality. In this thesis, the writer will also analyze Ashley's other individual identities namely Alette Peters and Toni Prescott and how they are reflected in the novel.

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